

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
January 14, 2021

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:
Kyle Taylor-Present
Matt Stewart—Present
Travis LeMaster—Present
Dave Fox—Present
Chuck Briede-Present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Matt Stewart.

II. **Minutes**

Dave Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as written. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

Maintenance Dept.—Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin reported that the town hall chimney has a significant leak at the second story roof line. There are also a couple of holes in the roof that will need to be patched. Devin has contacted Pinnacle and Clevenger's to submit quotes to make the necessary repairs.
- The salt spreader has a bad starter solenoid. Should be replaced by tomorrow.
- American Pump will be here tomorrow to run some diagnostics on the Eagle Drive lift station; the electric bill for that station has been running higher than the other lift stations.
- Bids have been received for the 2021 Resurface and Storm Drain project. Mitch Hansel of Fleis & Vandenbrink was in attendance to open and read the bids. The bids received were as follows:
 - E & B Paving \$256,361.05
 - Baumgartner & Co. \$252,211.00
 - Gaunt & Son Asphalt \$232,464.60
 - Brooks Construction \$252,482.00
 - Bragg Excavating \$200,690.95
 - D.C. Construction Services \$247,628.06

Mitch will take the bids under advisement and review them to affirm that the bids meet the bid bond requirements, that the bidders are financially capable to complete the project and have the experience to perform the project. Mitch will then return in two weeks to recommend a bid to the council.

Clerk presented the project contract from INDOT for signature by council President Dave Fox. After signing, clerk will submit the executed contract to INDOT via email.

- Mitch reported that the bids for the 2021 sidewalks project will be opened by INDOT on March 10. The hope is the sidewalk project will begin by late April or early May and the Main Street portion of the sidewalks would be completed by July 1 and the State Road 18 sidewalks will be completed by August 1. The town financial responsibility for the project is approximately \$80,000.
- Kyle presented a new arial map of the town that will be mounted in the council chamber.

Police Department Dept.—Marshal Ryan Hornback was not in attendance.

- Matt reported that he and Kyle met with Ryan to review and discuss the current police department operation.
 - A result of the meeting were recommendations for stop signs to be placed at the corner of Jackson and Washington and at the corner of Hubert and Broadway.
 - Discussed but tabled for future consideration was placing a stop sign at the corner of Main and Eagle.
 - Another recommendation from the meeting is updating and codifying the town ordinances.

- Ryan would like to acquire stop sticks for the new Tahoe (the 2012 Tahoe has a set) and Taser cartridges to replace the ones that have expired.
- Also discussed were general policing operations. Matt and Kyle requested that Ryan provide a report to the council on a regular basis.
- Unlike many towns, the Sweetser police department does not have any long guns. Matt and Kyle asked Ryan to assess if the town should seek to acquire long guns and investigate what the process would be for obtaining those type of weapons.
- Ryan indicated that the current ordinance may be ambiguous about locations where a full stop is required and asked that it be reviewed and, if needed, clarification provided.
- Also discussed was the department policy regarding issuing citations for ordinance violations.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the purchase of stop sticks for the new Tahoe and new Taser cartridges. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-Aye
 Dave Fox-Aye
 Chuck Briede-Aye

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said that he had mis-counted the number of trail signs that need to be replaced or added. The additional signs cost \$1,200. Clerk indicated there was room in the budget for the additional amount.

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to approve the purchase of the additional trail signs for up to \$1,200. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-Aye
 Dave Fox-Aye
 Chuck Briede-Aye

- Steve said the trail needs to be resealed. A discussion ensued about the costs and timing of such a project. Steve said the railroad cars also need a significant amount of maintenance. Grants were discussed as a possible avenue for obtaining the necessary funds. Matter was tabled.
- Steve reported that the Garfield statue has been broken. Dave said Shawn Robinson at Thompson and Sons works with fiberglass. Dave said he would speak with him about possibly repairing the statue.
- Steve proposes to sell the old jeep which the town owns. Travis said it has already been designated surplus property and thus can be sold or junked. Matter will be investigated.

VI. Continuing Business

- Michael said that the 118 E. Bragg St. property will soon be available in an upcoming tax or commissioners' sale. Kyle verified that the property has cycled through the tax sales without interest and is now eligible for a commissioners' sale. The town just needs to decide if it wishes to pursue the property. Michael summarized the process for doing so. Council discussed options for the property if acquired by the town. Council authorized Michael to initiate the process of acquisition when the property does come up for sale.
- There was a discussion of possible uses of the Church Street property and maintenance of the property. Matter was tabled for future consideration.
- There was continuing discussion of the proposed trail usage ordinance. Matter was tabled for future consideration.
- Clerk reported that the Town had received CARES Act funding of \$35,737.

VII. New Business

- Council took up the election of officers for 2021.
 - Floor was opened for nominations for council President. Chuck Briede nominated Dave Fox for President. Matt Stewart seconded the nomination. No other nominations were submitted, and the floor was closed. Dave Fox will serve as council President for 2021.
 - Floor was opened for nominations for council Vice-President. Dave Fox nominated Chuck Briede. Travis LeMaster seconded the nomination. No other nominations were submitted, and the floor was closed. Chuck Briede will serve as council Vice- President for 2021.
- Chuck initiated discussion of appointments to the Sweetser Redevelopment Commission for 2021. Council President Dave Fox appointed Chuck Briede and Travis LeMaster to the Commission.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to appoint Kyle Taylor, Matt Stewart, and Dave Fox to the Sweetser Redevelopment Commission for 2021. Travis Lemaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-Aye
 Dave Fox-Aye
 Chuck Briede-Aye

- The first Redevelopment Commission meeting for 2021 was set for Thursday, January 28, 6 pm at Sweetser Town Hall. Clerk will notify the public of the meeting.
- There was a discussion of codifying and digitizing the town ordinances. Kyle has received a quote of approximately \$10,000 to perform the project. Kyle will continue to investigate the matter and solicit additional quotes.
- There was further discussion of the request for additional stop signs and, if granted, the need to update the relevant ordinance to reflect the new placements.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion for stop signs to be placed at the corner of Jackson and Washington and at the corner of Hubert and Broadway. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-Aye
 Dave Fox-Aye
 Chuck Briede-Aye

Amending the relevant ordinance will be taken-up at a future council meeting.

- Sherri Pierce submitted a written request to the council to have her late fee of \$8.52 waived. It was determined that this was likely an isolated incident.

Chuck Briede made a motion to waive the late fee of \$8.52 for the account of Sherri Pierce. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-Aye
 Dave Fox-Aye
 Chuck Briede-Aye

- There was a discussion of establishing on-line payment options for town utility customers to pay their bills. Clerk will research and report back to the council.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
 John Potter
